

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 USUN N 05396 060216Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 060127Z DEC 73 ZFF4

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1803

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

S E C R E T USUN 5396

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJ: SYG VIEWS ON PARTICIPATION IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE  
CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: SYG CALLED IN AMB. BENNETT AFTERNOON DEC 5 TO EXPRESS CONCERN OF NON-ALIGNED SC MEMBERS THAT SUFFICIENT NOTICE BE GIVEN SYG BEFORE INVITING HIM TO ME PEACE CONFERENCE TO ENABLE COUNCIL AT LEAST TO "TAKE NOTE OF" HIS INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE. WALDHEIM SAID NON-ALIGNED HAD NO WISH TO INTERFERE WITH NEGOTIATIONS, BUT DID TO AVOID RUBBER STAMP IMPRESSION THAT WOULD BE LEFT BY LAST-MINUTE NOTIFICATION. SYG SAID HE PROMISED NON-ALIGNED TO PASS ON THEIR CONCERN TO US AND USSR. HE INDICATED FINALLY THAT ASSURANCES OF ADEQUATE ADVANCE NOTICE WOULD GO FAR TO SIDETRACK PRESSURES FOR PREMATURE COUNCIL MEETING. BENNETT PROMISED REPORT CONVERSATION TO DEPT END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER DISCUSSION OF OTHER MATTERS SYG TOLD AMB. BENNETT THAT MAIN REASON FOR ASKING HIM OVER WAS TO EXPRESS CONCERN OF NON-ALIGNED MEMBERS OF SC THAT INVITATION TO SYG TO PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA CONFERENCE NOT BE ISSUED AT LAST MINUTE. SYG SAID THAT, AS US KNEW, HE HAD BEEN HOLDING PERIODIC MEETINGS TO BREIF NON-ALIGNED SC MEMBERS, AND HAD SO FAR BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HEADING OFF CALL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 USUN N 05396 060216Z

FOR SC MEETING ON ME. HE DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG THAT SUCCESS

WOULD CONTINUE. NON-ALIGNED HAD BEEN TAKING CONSTRUCTIVE LINE, AND WERE NOT AT PRESENT PRESSING FOR EITHER FORMAL OR INFORMAL MEETING. NEVERTHELESS, THEY WERE EXTREMELY UNEASY OVER PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS OF HOW AND WHEN SYG WOULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE.

2. WORST POSSIBLE SCENARIO, AS NON-ALIGNED SAW IT, WAS THAT SYG WOULD RECEIVE CABLE FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER IN TEL AVIV ON DECEMBER 17 ASKING HIM TO COME RIGHT OUT TO GENEVA. CONCERN WAS TWO-FOLD: SC WOULD BE SEEN AS NO MORE THAN RUBBER STAMP FOR GREAT POWER BILATERAL DIPLOMACY, AND AUTHORITY AND PRESTIGE OF SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD BE UNDERMINED. NON-ALIGNED HOPED THAT SUFFICIENT ADVANCE NOTICE WOULD BE GIVEN-TWO OR THREE DAYS AT LEAST--SO THAT MEANINGFUL CONSULTATIONS COULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY COUNCIL. WALDHEIM STRESSED THAT NONALIGNED COUNCIL MEMBERS HAD NO WISH TO DISRUPT OR INTERFERE IN ANY WAY WITH PEACE CONFERENCE, BUT SIMPLY WISHED TO GIVE THE SC BLESSING AND GOOD WISHES FOR SUCCESS.

ONE SPECIFIC CONCERN OF NON-ALIGNED MEMBERS WAS THAT CHINESE, WHO HOLD SC PRESIDENCY IN DECEMBER, MIGHT NOT BE WILLING TO CONVENE COUNCIL ON FEW HOURS NOTICE. FEELING WAS THAT, IF GIVEN 24 HOURS OR MORE NOTICE, CHINESE WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO BLOCK COUNCIL MEETING.

4. TO MEET THESE CONCERNS SYG PROMISED NON-ALIGNEDS HE WOULD ASK US AND USSR TO GIVE HIM GREATEST POSSIBLE ADVANCE NOTICE OF INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE. WALDHEIM SAID IT WAS ON THIS BASIS THAT HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO PUT OFF CALL FOR SC MEETING. HE ASKED USG TO ASSURE HIM, IF POSSIBLE, OF INTENTIONS TO GIVE HIM ADEQUATE NOTICE AT VERY LEAST, HE WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMAL "PRE-AVIS."

5. WALDHEIM SAID ANOTHER, IF LESS IMPORTANT, ASPECT OF THE TIMING QUESTION WAS THAT HE WAS BEING ASKED DAILY BY GENEVA FOR ENOUGH WARNING SO THAT TIMELY LOGISTIC ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE FOR CONFERENCE. EVEN IF IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO USE UN CONFERENCE FACILITIES, UN OFFICIALS IN GENEVA WERE CONCERNED THAT ANCILLARY SERVICES MIGHT BE REQUESTED AS IN THE PARIS VIETNAM NEGOTIATIONS. THEY FELT THEY WOULD NEED AT LEAST A WEEK TO PREPARE ADEQUATELY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 USUN N 05396 060216Z

6. SYG REITERATED THAT NON-ALIGNED SC MEMBERS WERE TAKING A GENERALLY CONSTRUCTIVE AND CONSERVATIVE VIEW OF UN ROLE IN PEACE CONFERENCE. YUGOSLAV MOJSOV WAS FULL OF IDEAS BUT MOST NON-ALIGNED SEEMED TO ACCEPT INDIA'S POSITION THAT SC SHOULD NOT LIMIT SYG'S AUTHORITY, OR ATTEMPT IN ANY WAY TO DEFINE HIS MANDATE. THERE APPEARED TO BE AGREEMENT IN GROUP THAT IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR SC TO TAKE NOTE OF LETTER FROM SYG INFORMING COUNCIL OF

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE AND HIS INTENTION TO ACCEPT. AMB. BENNETT SAID HE HOPED NON-ALIGNED DID NOT TAKE POSITION THAT COUNCIL WOULD HAVE TO APPROVE SYG'S ROLE SINCE US DID NOT BELIEVE THAT NECESSARY. ON PRINCIPLE, US BELIEVED SYG HAD AUTHORITY TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION OF SC. HOWEVER, WE COULD UNDERSTAND DESIRE FOR COUNCIL TO PLAY SOME ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS, AND "TAKING NOTE" OF SYG'S INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE MIGHT BE AN APPROPRIATE WAY FOR COUNCIL TO GIVE SYG ITS BLESSING.

7. BENNETT EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR SYG'S EFFORTS TO PREVENT COUNCIL FROM MEETING PREMATURELY, AND SAID HE WOULD PROMPTLY REPORT REQUEST FOR ADEQUATE ADVANCE NOTICE OF INVITATION TO GENEVA.  
BENNETT

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NONALIGNED NATIONS, SECRETARY GENERAL, PEACE TALKS, MEETING DELEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SYG VIEWS ON PARTICIPATION IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XF, UN, UNSC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005